to the Mujahideens in Afghanistan; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Government's attention has been drawn to media reports to this effect.

(b) Government is opposed to all forms of interference and intervention in Afghanistan. We favour a negotiated political settlement of the issue which takes into account the legitimate interests of all concerned. We support the UN Secretary General's initiative in this regard.

Clearance of sub-standard goods for export

688. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL:
SHRI J. P. GOYAL:
SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of complaints received so far during the last three years, year-wise against the officers of the Export Inspection Council and the Export Inspection Agency for clearing sub-standard goods for export;

(b) what is the nature of complaints and the particulars of officers against whom complaints were received;

(c) what action has so far been taken on these complaints;

(d) what are the details of the firms whose goods were found to be sub-standard; and

(e) whether Government propose to hold an inquiry into the whole affair?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) to (e) No complaints have been received from foreign buyers directly against officers of EIC or EIAs as such. Whenever complaints are received from importers against exporters relating to quality, these are enquired into. Appropriate action is taken against officers/employees and against exporters for lapses, if any. During the last three years, action was initiated against 20 officers/employees and 27 exporters/manufacturers.

Revolving venture fund

689. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any suggestion has been received by Government for the establishment of a revolving venture fund to assist and promote export-oriented industries; and

(b) if so, what decision has been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Trade deficit with EEC

690. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's trade deficit with the European Economic Community is 40 per cent of India's total trade deficit;

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken to increase India's exports to the EEC countries and reduce the trade deficit; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) In the year 1985-86, India's trade deficit with the EEC was about 35 per cent of our total trade deficit.

(b) and (c) Efforts continue to made to increase Indian exports to EEC countries through various trade promotion measures such as exhibitions, trade fairs, exchange of delegations, etc. apart from special integrated programmes for products and market development. In addition, this matter was also discussed at the 4th session of the Indo-EEC Joint Commission held in Brussels in January, 1987. The EEC shared India's concern at the growing trade deficit and recognised the need to take measure for bringing down the trade gap, including an expanded and integrated trade promotion programme to be undertaken and greater flexibility in the various administrative procedures and regulations affecting India's trade *vis-a-vis* the European community.

Impact of Import Liberalisation Policy

691. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the new policy of import liberalisation has badly affected the indigenous research and development in technology; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take up a selective approach in import liberalisation to encourage indigenous research and development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Import policy is under constant review and necessary modifications are made from time to time keeping in view the needs of the economy.

Exports

692. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the value of exports of goods to different countries during the last two years, year-wise;

(b) the target fixed for the current financial year and;

(c) whether the target is expected to be fulfilled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) A statement is annexed. [*See* Appendix CXLI, Annexure No 21.]

(b) The export target fixed for the current financial year 1986-87 is Rs. 12203 crores.

(c) As per the current indications, the target is expected to be achieved.

Insurgent activities in Mizoram, Manipur and other North Eastern States

693. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether insurgents indulged in acts of lawlessness in Mizoram, Manipur and other North Eastern regions in recent months;

(b) whether any plans were drawn up in consultation with the concerned State authorities to combat jointly against their operations; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) There have been no insurgent activities in Meghalaya, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh (except Tirap District). In Tirap